IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 5-6 without prejudice as follows:

Claims 1-6 (Canceled)

7.(Original) Signal encoder having an input for a signal to be encoded, said signal encoder comprises a codebook entry selector for selecting a codebook entry for obtaining a synthetic signal giving a best approximation of a signal representative of the input signal, the codebook entry comprises a plurality of samples that can assume more than two values, said codebook entry being identified with a sequence of symbols, characterized in that the codebook entries corresponding to sequences of symbols differing in one particular symbol value, differ in one single sample value.

8.(Original) Decoder for decoding an encoded signal comprising a sequence of symbols representative of a codebook entry comprising a plurality of samples that can assume more than two values, the receiver comprises a decoder with a codebook for

deriving the codebook entry from the received sequence of symbols characterized in that the codebook entries corresponding to sequences of symbols differing in one particular symbol value, differ in one single sample value.

9.(Previously Presented) Transmission method comprising:

selecting a codebook entry for obtaining a synthetic signal giving an approximation of a signal representative of an input signal, the codebook entry comprises a plurality of samples that can assume more than two values, said codebook entry being identified with a sequence of symbols;

transmitting the sequence of symbols over a transmission medium; and

receiving the sequence of symbols from the transmission medium and deriving the codebook entry from the received sequence of symbols, wherein the codebook entries corresponding to sequences of symbols that differ in one particular symbol value are associated with sample values that differ in one single sample value.

10. (Previously Presented) Encoding method comprising selecting a codebook entry for obtaining a synthetic signal giving an approximation of a signal representative of an input signal, the codebook entry comprises a plurality of samples that can assume more than two values, said codebook entry being identified with a sequence of symbols, wherein the codebook entries corresponding to sequences of symbols that differ in one particular symbol value are associated with sample values that differ in one single sample value.

11. (Previously Presented) Decoding method for decoding an encoded signal comprising a sequence of symbols representative of a codebook entry comprising a plurality of samples that can assume more than two values, the decoding method comprises deriving the codebook entry from the sequence of symbols, wherein the codebook entries corresponding to sequences of symbols that differ in one particular symbol value are associated with sample values that differ in one single sample value.

12.(Previously Presented) A decoder for use in a transmission system, the transmission system having a transmitter for transmitting an encoded signal and a receiver for receiving said encoded signal, said encoded signal having a sequence of symbols representative of codebook entries comprising a plurality of samples that can assume more than two values;

wherein the decoder is located in the receiver and comprises:

a codebook for deriving said codebook entries from said sequence of symbols, wherein the codebook entries corresponding to sequences of symbols differing in one particular symbol value, differ in one single sample value.

13.(Previously Presented) The decoder of claim 12, wherein the difference between said sample values of codebook entries corresponding to sequences of symbols differing in one particular symbol value, is equal to a smallest quantization step of said sample value.

14.(Previously Presented) The decoder of claim 12, wherein the number of possible sample values is odd.

15.(Previously Presented) The decoder of claim 12, wherein a numerical value associated with a first codebook entry is equal to the numerical value of the sequence of symbols of a second codebook entry, and wherein the numerical value associated with the second codebook entry is equal to the numerical value of the sequence of symbols associated with the first codebook entry.

16.(Previously Presented) An encoder for use in a transmission system, the transmission system having a transmitter for transmitting an encoded signal; and a receiver for receiving said encoded signal;

said encoder comprising:

a processor configured to form said encoded signal having a sequence of symbols representative of codebook entries comprising a plurality of samples that can assume more than two values;

wherein the codebook entries corresponding to sequences of symbols differing in one particular symbol value, differ in one single sample value.

17. (Previously Presented) The encoder of claim 16, wherein the difference between said sample values of codebook entries corresponding to sequences of symbols differing in one particular symbol value, is equal to a smallest quantization step of said sample value.

18. (Previously Presented) The encoder of claim 16, wherein the number of possible sample values is odd.

19. (Previously Presented) The encoder of claim 16, wherein a numerical value associated with a first codebook entry is equal to the numerical value of the sequence of symbols of a second codebook entry, and wherein the numerical value associated with the second codebook entry is equal to the numerical value of the sequence of symbols associated with the first codebook entry.

20. (Previously Presented) The transmitter of claim 5, wherein the difference between said sample values of codebook entries corresponding to sequences of symbols differing in one particular symbol value, is equal to a smallest quantization step of said sample value.

21. (Previously Presented) The transmitter of claim 5, wherein the number of possible sample values is odd.

22. (Previously Presented) The transmitter of claim 5, wherein a numerical value associated with a first codebook entry is equal to the numerical value of the sequence of symbols of a second codebook entry, and wherein the numerical value associated with the second codebook entry is equal to the numerical value of the sequence of symbols associated with the first codebook entry.

23. (Previously Presented) The receiver of claim 6, wherein the difference between said sample values of codebook entries corresponding to sequences of symbols differing in one particular

symbol value, is equal to a smallest quantization step of said sample value.

24. (Previously Presented) The receiver of claim 6, wherein the number of possible sample values is odd.

25. (Previously Presented) The receiver of claim 6, wherein a numerical value associated with a first codebook entry is equal to the numerical value of the sequence of symbols of a second codebook entry, and wherein the numerical value associated with the second codebook entry is equal to the numerical value of the sequence of symbols associated with the first codebook entry.